BEFORE THE

OCT - 6 1993

Federal Communications Commission federal communications commission office of the secretary Washington, D.C.

In the Matter of

Implementation of the Cable Television Consumer Protection and Competition Act of 1992

Broadcast Signal Carriage Issues

OPPOSITION OF TIME WARNER ENTERTAINMENT COMPANY, L.P., TO EMERGENCY MOTION FOR PARTIAL STAY

Time Warner Entertainment Company, L.P., by its attorneys, hereby submits its opposition to the 29 September 1993 "Emergency Motion for Partial Stay" filed on behalf of the Wireless Cable Association ("WCA") and the National Private Cable Association ("NPCA"), which seeks a stay of the effective date of Section 76.64(e) of the Commission's Rules.

The Commission has already entered an order without soliciting or waiting for timely oppositions. Stay Order, FCC 93-467 (5 Oct. 1993). The Commission entertained the motion on an emergency basis (apparently under Section 1.298(a) of its rules) despite the absence of any showing as to why the movants did not sooner request the action sought in their motion and without making the finding as to "irreparable injury" or public interest required by Section 1.298(a).

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In light of the Commission's 5 October order, this opposition, although timely filed under Sections 1.43 and 1.45(d) of the Commission's rules, is submitted to complete the record on these issues. Its purpose is to focus the Commission's attention on a fundamental error of fact on which the motion and the 5 October stay order are premised. In Paragraph 3 of its 5 October Stay Order, the Commission apparently accepts the premise that "wireless cable" and MATV operators provide broadcast signals "free of charge" to their subscribers. This service is apparently deemed to be "free" because no explicit charge is made for such services on the subscriber's bill. Thus, WCA and NPCA would have the application of the Commission's rule turn on whether the MATV operator chooses to characterize its monthly charge as one covering all services or rather self-servingly characterizes the broadcast signal portion of the service as "free." This is a distinction without a difference.

The application of the Commission's rules should not depend on how the MATV operator chooses to format its bill for service. Rather, application of the rule should turn on the underlying economic realities of the transaction. An MATV or wireless cable operator will not go to the expense of providing an antenna and conveying broadcast signals over that antenna unless it is making money by doing so. No matter how the bill is formatted, a commercial enterprise such as an MATV or wireless cable operator is not likely to be engaged in providing "free" service to anyone. The Commission thus cannot reasonably premise its

regulations -- or a stay of those regulations -- on the assumption that service is being provided "free of charge".

Thus, for the reasons stated herein and in Time Warner's

7 June 1993 Opposition to Petitions for Reconsideration or

Clarification in this proceeding, the Commission should have

denied the stay and should deny the petitions for reconsideration

of Section 76.64(e) of the rules.

Respectfully submitted,

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Dated: Washington, D.C. 6 October 1993

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that, on October 6, 1993, copies of the foregoing "Opposition of Time Warner Entertainment Company, L.P., to Emergency Motion for Partial Stay" were served by First Class Mail, postage prepaid, to the following:

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